

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EPA-04 HEW-06 FEA-01 AID-05
CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-07 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08
INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04
USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 /119 W
-----302239Z 047699 /46

R 300819Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6519

UNCLAS TOKYO 4469

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, A
SUBJECT: MEETING ON REGULATION OF FLUOROCARBONS, APRIL 26-28
WASHINGTON, D.C.

REF: (A) STATE 59120, (B) TOKYO 4006

1. EMBOFF TODAY MET WITH DR. MICHIO HASHIMTO, DIRECTOR
GENERAL, AIR QUALITY BUREAU, ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, TO DISCUSS
GOJ RESPONSE TO INVITATION TO SUBJECT MEETING. HASHIMOTK
SAID THAT GOJ HAD DECIDED THAT REGULATION OF FLUOROCARBONS
WAS OF LOW PRIORITY AND THAT NO GOJ REP WOULD ATTEND MEETING.

2. WHEN PRESSED FOR REASONING BEHIND DECISION, HASHIMOTO
SAID THAT MAJOR EFFORTS FOR CONTROL OF NITROGEN OXIDES AND
HYDROCARBONS HAD BEEN GIVEN PRIORITY AND THAT THE ENVIRON-
MENT AGENCY DID NOT THINK THAT CONSIDERATION OF REGULATION
OF FLUOROCARBONS WAS EITHER NECESSARY OR TIMELY, GIVEN THE
CURRENT LEVEL OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATON AVAILABLE ON THIS
PROBLEM. HE WAS FRANK IN SAYING THAT THE GOJ VIEW WAS THAT
THE PROPER FORUM FOR DISCUSSING THE REGULATION OF FLOUORO-
CARBONS WAS IN THE OECD.

3. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT EVEN GIVEN THESE RSEVA-
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TIONS, THE GOJ SHOULD PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING IF ONLY
TO PROTECT JAPANESE INTERESTS WHICH MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY
THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING. HASHIMOTO DID NOT SEEM CON-
CERNED AND AGAIN SAID THAT HE FELT IT WAS TOO EARLY IN
THE GAME FOR JAPAN TO TAKE PART IN ANY SUCH MEETING.
COMMENT: MEETING WITH HASHIMOTO WAS VERY INFORMAL AND
DR. HASHIMOTO SPOKE VERY FRANKLY THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSION.

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HIS VIEWS ARE NOT SHARED BY ALL OTHER SEGMENTS OF THE GOJ WHICH MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN THIS MATTER. HOWEVER, THE STRONG RESISTANCE WE HAVE MET IN THIS CASE WOULD INDICATE THAT DR. HASHIMOTO'S VIEWS ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOJ AS A WHOLE. DEPT. SHOULD NOT EXPECT GOJ PARTICIPATION IN APRIL MEETING, BUT EMBASSY WILL NOW APPROACH FOREIGN OFFICE TO SOLICIT FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO INVITATION.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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